

“I heard you used to harass her,” Han Jingru scowled.

Liu Wei’s heart sank when he saw Han Jingru’s change in reaction. *He’s clearly here for revenge!*

Back then, when Liu Wei did not get his way with Ho Ting, he spread unsavory rumors regarding her in secret and revealed that he had stayed at her home until late at night. He wanted to slander Ho Ting, but he didn’t expect a weak woman from a rural area to know someone so powerful in such a short time frame.

“I-I have harassed her before, but she refused my advances every time. I didn’t do anything in the end.” Liu Wei attempted to defend himself.

“In that case, you admit to assaulting her?” Han Jingru hissed as he approached Liu Wei.

The chief broke out in a cold sweat as he backed away, hoping to put some distance between himself and Han Jingru.

“I tried to, but I’ve never once succeeded, really.

You can ask Ho Ting if you don't believe me," Liu Wei explained.

"And what did you do after that?" Han Jingru growled.

When he saw Han Jingru closing in, Liu Wei was scared out of his wits. He knew that someone like Han Jingru could easily kill him and get away with it.

"I-I even spread some rumors to... to defame her and got the cripple to spread word that I-I stayed at her home until late at night. I even said that she was someone else's mistress in the city and sold her daughter to a brothel," Liu Wei confessed in full.

The villagers were astonished. They had thought that all of this was real and Ho Ting had been committing countless immoral acts outside the village. That was why they continued spreading the rumors in the village. However, these were fabrications by Liu Wei!

"What a scumbag! You wanted to get revenge on

her for not letting you have your way, right?”
Han Jingru bellowed.

That was how Liu Wei thought back then. He felt that since Ho Ting’s husband had died, he could do whatever he wanted with her. However, she refused. He could do nothing about it except defame her as revenge.

Back then, Liu Wei thought little about this. After all, Ho Ting was just a woman in the village and did not have any power to fight back. To his horror, she returned after several years with an extremely powerful backer.

“I was wrong; this is all my fault! Please let me off! Don’t make life difficult for a nobody like me!” Liu Wei pleaded.

At this juncture, Ho Ting got off the car. All the other villagers watched enviously. After all, these villagers did not have many chances to even see a Rolls-Royce, much less sit in one.

“Ho Ting sure got it lucky, meeting such an influential man after leaving the village.”

“Who knows? There might be some underhanded methods involved.”

“Hush! Haven’t you seen what state Liu Wei is in? Do you want to get beaten up as well?”

That man jumped in fright and kept his mouth shut.

Ho Ting walked over to Liu Wei’s side and yelled, “Do you know how much those rumors had made me suffer? Thanks to you, I don’t even dare to return home!”

Liu Wei got onto his knees in front of Ho Ting. He knew he had no choice but to admit to his wrongdoings and beg for forgiveness. After all, he had indeed wronged Ho Ting back then.

“Ho Ting, it was all my fault. I deserve to die!” Liu Wei screamed as he slapped himself.

Ho Ting finally found the cause of all of her indignation these years. She was not satisfied with watching Liu Wei slap himself and slapped him as well.

Liu Wei simply took her slaps in silence.

After several dozen slaps, Ho Ting's hands hurt and Liu Wei's face was swollen beyond recognition as well.

"Mom, that's enough. It's not worth hurting your hands," Jiang Yingying soothed her mother.

Someone from the crowd of the same age as Jiang Yingying simply watched. He used to bully Jiang Yingying a lot when she was still young and not as beautiful as she was now. To his amazement, she had grown to be a stunning beauty.

"Blackie, weren't you close to Jiang Yingying in the past? Now that she's struck it rich, why not try to get close to her?" someone egged Blackie on.

Blackie scratched his nose. *Close to Jiang Yingying? What a joke! I was the one who bullied Jiang Yingying the most in the village. However, she has indeed gotten rich. If I get close to her, I might even move to the city and get rich. I'll finally be free of this poor village!*

“Who knows if she remembers the past?” Blackie murmured. *Hopefully, she’s already forgotten about it. Otherwise, I’d end up just like Liu Wei.*

“Why not give it a shot?” the man egged him on.

When Blackie heard this, he decided not to wait and approached Jiang Yingying.

“Yingying, do you still remember me?” Blackie inquired.

Jiang Yingying glanced at him. *Why would I forget someone like you?*

“Of course I do. Back then, you used to pin me on the ground and cut off my hair no matter how I begged you not to. In the end, you shaved all my hair off!” Jiang Yingying recounted plainly.

Blackie took a step back and said, “Yingying, that was just us fooling around as kids! I didn’t expect you to remember it so well. It was all my fault. I’m sorry.”

“Do you think a ‘sorry’ is enough?” Han Jingru demanded.

Blackie was frightened out of his wits. Although he did not know who Han Jingru was, he knew he could not take the beating the man just gave Liu Wei.

“Buddy, stay out of this. This is between Yingying and me. We grew up together and we’re childhood friends. She’ll forgive me,” Blackie said.

Han Jingru turned to Jiang Yingying, who replied without hesitation, “There’s nothing but bad blood between us. He not only cut my hair but also threw rocks at me. When I was young, none of the windows at home could block out the chilly winter wind because he broke all of them.”

Han Jingru grinned. “Looks like you failed to reflect upon yourself before trying to get favors out of others.”

Blackie did not dare to look at Han Jingru and begged Jiang Yingying, “Yingying, those were all

in the past, when I was young and ignorant. Do you really have to be so spiteful? We were childhood friends. Do you have to go as far as seeking revenge?”

Before Jiang Yingying could reply, Han Jingru grabbed Blackie by the neck and sneered, “This isn’t revenge. We’re just letting you have a taste of how much you hurt Yingying.”

Blackie gasped for breath. He knew that words were wasted on Han Jingru. He had to get Jiang Yingying to forgive him in order to escape this ordeal.

“Yingying, tell him to let go! We were childhood friends!” Blackie shrieked.

“Blackie is an idiot! He knew he did so many things to her, yet he still tried to approach her!”

“You know Blackie as well. Now that Jiang Yingying is rich, he won’t pass up this opportunity to get something out of it.”

“He had it coming.”

No one in the village showed Blackie any sympathy. They all knew that he was trying to get close to Jiang Yingying. Sadly, he did too many unforgivable things in the past and this was pretty much suicide.

“Jingru, there’s no need for you to do this. I’ll take care of him myself,” Jiang Yingying said.

Han Jingru smiled and let go of Blackie.

Just as Blackie rejoiced, feeling that a woman could not injure him badly, he flew backward and took a solid blow to the chest.

He fell hard against the ground ten meters away, kicking up a cloud of dust.

This left all the villagers in awe. None of them expected Jiang Yingying to have such monstrous strength and send Blackie flying with one punch.

“I-I’m not seeing things, am I?” someone exclaimed as he rubbed his eyes in disbelief.

Many other people did the same thing. It shocked

all of them that Jiang Yingying possessed such superhuman strength.



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Blackie writhed around on the floor as though the pain was killing him.

Is this really the weak woman from before?

When he recovered from the shock, Blackie stared at Jiang Yingying in fear. *Not even men could exert as much strength as she just did!*

Jiang Yingying inched towards Blackie.

He shook his head and gasped, “Jiang Yingying, what more do you want? You’ve already hit me? Isn’t that enough?”

“Enough?” Jiang Yingying scoffed. “How could this be enough to make up for my agony?”

Blackie’s reputation was as black as his name in the village, and everyone around his age had been beaten by him before. Even now, he was arrogant and would hit anyone he did not like. He never held back or felt bad about hitting others. In fact, he took enjoyment in it.

“Blackie has been acting tyrannically. Not even

Liu Wei can take him in hand. I didn't expect him to fall under the hands of Jiang Yingying."

"Serves him right. He got his just desserts."

"But why is Jiang Yingying so powerful? She's a woman and yet she's so strong!"

Jiang Yingying then lifted Blackie into the air by the collar with one arm.

Everyone was exasperated.

Everyone except Han Jingru, who simply smiled.

Although Blackie did not have a large build, he was easily seventy kilograms in weight. It would be extremely difficult to lift him into the air with one arm.

"Jiang Yingying, let go of me! Let's talk this through nicely. I'll apologize, alright?" Blackie screamed.

Jiang Yingying spat expressionlessly, "I've said that to you in the past as well. How did you treat

me then?”

She gave him a swift kick to the abdomen without letting go of his collar. He recoiled from the impact and swung back and forth like a pendulum.

Blackie let out an ear-splitting scream and the other villagers could not bear to watch in such a state.

At that moment, the villagers knew that Jiang Yingying had returned, fully prepared to seek revenge. Thankfully, most of them had only spoken ill of them behind their backs and did not bully them outright like Blackie or Liu Wei. However, anyone who had badmouthed them before would feel scared that Jiang Yingying would get her revenge if she found out.

“From today onwards, no one would dare to bully me,” Jiang Yingying laughed as she vented her years of frustration. The moment she let go of Blackie, she punched him square on the chest, sending him flying. Only this time, he passed out before he even had the time to make a sound.

The sight of this left the onlookers rooted to the ground and looking at their feet in fear.

Liu Wei nearly wet his pants as he hunched over on the ground. His legs felt too weak to even get up.

“Ho Ting, I was a fool in the past and spread malicious rumors about you. I hope you can forgive me after all this time. I won’t ever do it again!” Liu Wei knelt down and bowed to her.

Ho Ting thought that the years of indignation could drive her to torture and kill Liu Wei.

However, when she saw him begging on his knees, she felt sorry for him. After all, she could not possibly kill Liu Wei because of what he did in the past.

“Aunt Ho, how would you like to deal with this man? I can take care of any legal repercussions,” Han Jingru offered.

Legal repercussions? This phrase nearly scared Liu Wei to death. He bowed his head even lower.

Ho Ting sighed, "It's no longer important now. I want to visit my husband's grave."

"Let me lead the way!" Liu Wei offered.

Since Ho Ting did not pursue blame, Han Jingru said nothing either. He brought the two of them back in order to let the villagers know they were living a good life and put an end to the rumors. Now, both of his goals were accomplished.

There was a cemetery in the village where everyone would be buried when they died.

Ho Ting's husband's gravestone had been smashed into bits, and weeds had grown all over them.

Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying immediately started plucking the weeds. When Han Jingru saw the two of them in tears, he smiled.

Jiang Yingying's father had passed away for many years, but Ho Ting did not remarry. She raised her daughter using her own strength. In a sense, Ho Ting, Mo Lan, and Han Jingru were the

same type of people. Once they fell in love with someone, they would not have feelings for another.

“Who did this?” Han Jingru asked Liu Wei.

Liu Wei trembled. Even such a simple question made Liu Wei feel unbelievably stressed, and he did not even dare to speak loudly in front of someone as powerful as Han Jingru.

“I-I’m not too sure myself. There isn’t someone guarding the cemetery round the clock,” Liu Wei replied.

“Hire a few men to renovate the graveyard and build a new gravestone. Will half a day be enough?” Han Jingru demanded.

“Yes, of course! I’ll get to it immediately.” Liu Wei nodded vigorously. Even if Han Jingru only gave him half an hour, he would agree without hesitation. He did not dare to refuse an order from someone like Han Jingru.

Although the villagers did not follow them to the

graveyard, they watched from afar and continued talking about Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying.

Of course, none of them dared to badmouth them and simply regarded them with envy.

“Jiang Yingying struck it rich this time! I didn’t expect a small village like us to produce such a powerful person.”

“She must be an influential figure in town now. I can’t believe that after all this time, she’s doing the best out of everyone in this village!”

“Who on earth said that they’d be begging on the streets? Look at how well they’re dressed and the number of luxury cars here. They’re clearly well-to-do!”

Liu Wei acted quickly and found a few laborers within ten minutes. They had all of their tools and equipment with them, but the gravestone needed some time.

“The gravestone will be done in three hours. If that’s too long, I can get them to hurry up,” Liu

Wei reported in trepidation.

Han Jingru shook his head gently. *Three hours isn't a long time. Perhaps it isn't even long enough for Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying to talk to the deceased.*

“Let's leave this place. After so many years, I'm sure they have a lot to say to the deceased.” Han Jingru turned around and left the graveyard.

Liu Wei did not stay either, and followed behind Han Jingru.

“Jingru, how did Yingying become so powerful?” Mo Lan queried as well. When he witnessed her superhuman strength as she hit Blackie, he was shocked too. Although he heard Jiang Yingying defeated Qi Hu, it was nothing compared to the impact of seeing it in person.

To Mo Lan, this was impossible. *Jiang Yingying is such a small woman. How could she pack such a punch?*

“Don't think too much into it. It's a secret that I

can't tell anyone yet," Han Jingru replied.

Mo Lan frowned. Although he seemed dissatisfied, he was no longer curious. If Han Jingru did not want to say it, he would not force him to either.

On the other hand, Liu Wei was confused. *I know I've heard the name Jingru before, but I can't recall where...*

"Liu Wei, bring me to Jiang Yingying's home." Han Jingru interrupted his train of thought.

When Liu Wei heard him, he suddenly became alert due to fear.

"Alright, follow me," Liu Wei replied.

The paths in the countryside were small and narrow. Thankfully, it had not been raining lately, or the road would have become muddy and getting there would be difficult. A few minutes later, they arrived at a rundown house.

The main gate was already broken. From the looks of it, someone had purposely broken it into after Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying left.

The yard was overridden with weeds, and there was not an empty spot in sight. Some weeds even reached one meter in height.

Every window pane in the house was intentionally broken. *Who would have done this if they didn't hate Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying?*

“The door is wrecked and the windows are smashed. Looks like you have quite an interesting bunch of people in your village,” Han Jingru commented in a dangerously calm tone.

Liu Wei panicked when he heard this and explained, “Blackie smashed all the windows. Back when Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying were still living here, they were already broken.”

“No wonder Yingying hates Blackie so much. Looks like we let him off too lightly.” After a short pause, Han Jingru instructed Mo Lan, “Bring him over.”

“Alright.” Mo Lan nodded and left.

Within five minutes, Blackie was dragged over, too scared to walk.

“Did you break the windows here?” Han Jingru interrogated him.

Blackie’s throat felt dry and could not speak, so he simply nodded. He wanted to deny it, but with Liu Wei here, it was futile. After all, the entire village knew about this.

“Why do you hate them?”

“I-I was just fooling around,” Blackie answered.

“Fooling around?” Han Jingru’s lips twitched maliciously. “You derive joy from bringing pain upon others? You call this fooling around?”

Blackie felt a murderous intent coming from his tone. He was scared out of his wits. He apologized profusely, “I’m sorry! I’m so sorry! I was young and didn’t know better back then! I’ll get someone to replace it!”

“What’s the point of replacing the glass? Can you make up for the pain you caused them?” Han Jingru suddenly swung his arms in a stretching motion.

Such a simple action made Blackie think that Han Jingru was about to hit him. He shivered in fear.

“How should I deal with people like these?” Han Jingru asked Mo Lan.

Mo Lan gave a wry smile. “Breaking a bone for every glass pane sounds reasonable.”

A bone for every pane?

Even Liu Wei nearly passed out when he heard this, not to mention Blackie.

Who are these men? Why do they have no regard for the law at all?

“Please let me off. I’m really sorry about what I’ve done! Give me a second chance to turn over a new leaf!” Blackie got on his knees and begged. He did not want his bones broken, or those he

picked on in the past would definitely come and seek revenge.

“Looks like this place is overridden with weeds,” Han Jingru commented casually.

Blackie understood the meaning behind his words and scrambled into the yard. He started plucking weeds and told Han Jingru, “Look, just leave manual labor like this to me! I don’t know how to do anything else, but I’m an expert at plucking weeds.”

Mo Lan sneered. *And here I thought I had a chance to get some exercise. Lucky bastard. He’s quite a sharp one to be able to get the message immediately.*

“This is no fun,” Mo Lan grumbled.

“Starting today, I’ll get someone to inspect this place every week. If I find one weed in this yard, I’ll make sure you regret it,” Han Jingru threatened Blackie.

Blackie hurriedly nodded, “Just leave it to me!

I'll make sure this place is neat and tidy!"

Han Jingru turned to Liu Wei and instructed, "After we leave, make sure someone burns incense at Ho Ting's deceased husband's grave every day."

"Yes, of course! I'll do it every day, rain or shine," Liu Wei pledged.

At one in the afternoon, a new gravestone arrived. With Han Jingru and Mo Lan's help, Ho Ting erected a new gravestone for her husband.

Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying returned home to see the yard well-kept and there was not a single weed in sight. They knew that this was all thanks to Han Jingru.

Although they would no longer be staying here, this place held their irreplaceable memories. They even tidied the place up.

Before they left, Han Jingru called Liu Wei and Blackie over.

“If you’re not happy, feel free to seek revenge at Yun City. My name is Han Jingru. Got it?” Han Jingru told the two of them.

Liu Wei had found the name familiar all this while. Now that he heard his full name, it finally dawned upon him who that man was.

Han Jingru! He’s the legendary Han Jingru!

Although the village chief spent most of his life in the village, he would occasionally go to the city to meet a few officials. He knew Han Jingru’s power and influence in Yun City. He had never dreamed that he would be lucky enough to meet such a powerful man.

“President Han, I didn’t know it was you!” Liu Wei said with a trembling voice.

“Since you know who I am, you’d better do the tasks I assigned you properly. Otherwise, you should know the consequences,” Han Jingru threatened.

“Yes, of course.” Liu Wei nodded vigorously.

Perhaps he had hoped that he could ignore Han Jingru's assignment the moment he left, but the chief no longer harbored such a thought. From that day on, burning incense at Ho Ting's late husband's grave became an important part of his daily routine.

After all, who dared to defy a direct order from Han Jingru himself?

As the convoy drove off in a distance, Liu Wei finally heaved a sigh of relief.

A vicious look flashed across Blackie's eyes. Haughty people like him would not change their ways easily. The moment Han Jingru left, he felt like he could ignore him.

"That damn Han Jingru, who does he think he is? He's just bullying me because he outnumbered me!" Blackie scoffed.

Liu Wei sneered. *Outnumbered? The name Han Jingru would be enough to gain respect in the entire Yun City. He doesn't need numbers to deal with trash like you!*

“Blackie, here’s some advice — go find out who Han Jingru from Yun City is. Otherwise, I won’t be able to save you,” Liu Wei told him.

“Liu Wei, did you think I’m a coward like you? I know many people in the city. All I need to do is make a call.”

“Feel free to call your friends and ask them what will happen if you offend Han Jingru.” Liu Wei chuckled. *This guy really is ignorant. He’ll only regret it when his death is set in stone.*

Blackie dialed his friend’s number.

He had not contacted this man for a long time, but when the call connected, the two of them still exchanged pleasantries.

“Oh right, do you know who Han Jingru is?” Blackie queried.

The man on the other end of the line had an obvious change in tone and snapped, “Damn it, Blackie. You must be tired of living! How dare you call Mr. Han by name?”

“Who the hell is he and what does he think he is?” Blackie scorned.

“Tsk,tsk. Blackie, you’re digging your own grave! Mr. Han is the top dog in Yun City and everyone has to bow to him! Do you know Mo Lan?” the man inquired.

“You look down upon me too much! Of course I know who Mo Lan is!” Blackie replied.

“Well, then did you know his boss is Mr. Han?”

Blackie was taken aback and stuttered, “Y-You’re saying that M-Mo Lan has a boss?”

“Yes! Mr. Han is Mo Lan’s big boss. This is common knowledge in Yun City! You really don’t hear much news in that lousy place of yours, do you? The entire Yun City, be it the underworld or the corporate world, is under Mr. Han’s control!”

Blackie inhaled sharply and felt shivers run down his spine. He thought he could lord it all over the village the moment Han Jingru was gone. Now,

he knew he was a fool.

“Blackie, don’t tell me you’ve offended Mr. Han! Damn it, don’t tell others you know me!” With that, the man on the other end of the line hurriedly hung up.



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On the way back to the city, Ho Ting thanked Han Jingru gratefully. If it weren't for him, she wouldn't have the courage to return to the village.

To Han Jingru, it was a small matter and there was no need for Ho Ting to thank him at all.

More importantly, Jiang Yingying would be following him to Apocalypse and venturing into the unknown. Thus, the help Han Jingru gave Ho Ting could be considered as compensation for Jiang Yingying.

After returning to the villa, Han Jingru needed to make a trip to Yan City. In the past, Nangong Shuxian had never brought him to the ancestral worship ceremony as she did not regard him as one of the Hans, thus he wasn't qualified to partake in the ceremony.

Han Jingru was envious of Han Yu back then, as he could pay his respect to the ancestors at the ancestral shrine. But after Han Jingru grew up and realized other family members did not recognize him as a Han, he felt ashamed of his

younger self.

Han Jingru said, “Mom, I heard other prominent families pressured the Han family after Dad passed away. When we get back, let’s make them pay.”

After Han Li died, Nangong Shuxian rose to power and barely managed to support the Han family. However, after the news of Nangong Shuxian’s passing spread in Yan City, Shi Yan faced a ton of stress and pressure in protecting the Han family. What’s worse, other prominent families then betrayed the Hans, causing Shi Yan to live in misery. Shi Yan could not trust anyone anymore, so she fired her servants, all of whom had been bribed to spy on the Han family.

Shi Yan said, “Sure, let’s do as you say.”

Han Jingru declared, “Mo Lan, spread the word around Yan City. Tell those who betrayed the Han family to kneel at the Han Residence and ask for forgiveness. I’ll give them one day. If they refuse to show up, I’ll go look for them myself.”

This made Mo Lan's blood boil. He said, "Leave it to me. I'll make sure everyone in the city knows about this."

Han Xiuzhi chuckled. "Jingru, your vibe is much more imposing than mine back in my days." He was genuinely pleased.

The stronger Han Jingru was, the more relieved Han Xiuzhi felt. The Hans would not go into a downfall due to Han Xiuzhi's old age, after all. Rather, Han Jingru would now lead the family to even greater heights. This was a turn of events Han Xiuzhi had never imagined before.

Han Jingru replied, "Grandpa, I will never reach your level. If it's not for you, the Han family wouldn't have lived until now."

Han Xiuzhi shook his head. *I'm just a chess piece for the Nangong family. Without their support, there's no way I can build the Han family from scratch into its current powerful existence. But Jingru, you conquered everything with your strength. Even Nangong Boling wants an outsider like you to become the patriarch of his family. This isn't something common people can achieve.*

Han Xiuzhi insisted, “Don’t be so humble. You’re the only one who could make Nangong Boling himself come to Yun City to see you.”

Han Jingru suddenly remembered Nangong Boling after hearing his name. “Has Nangong Boling left?”

Yan Qiong said, “Not yet. He’s still in Yun City. I think he’s thinking of a way to make you the head of the Nangong family.”

Han Jingru didn’t have the time to manage the Nangong family as he would head to Apocalypse come the new year. Besides, Han Jingru wasn’t interested in the position at all.

However, the Nangong family had massive forces. It would only benefit Han Jingru if he could control the Nangongs.

“I’ll go see him.” After saying his words, he took a glance at Su Yimo.

Su Yimo nodded. “Just make sure you come back early. There’s soup at home.”

Han Jingru left right after he gave a quick yes.

Han Xiuzhi was grinning from ear to ear. No matter how hard he tried to hide his smile, he failed to do so.

Han Xiuzhi said, feeling proud of Han Jingru’s achievement, “I have never thought that the powerful Nangong family would fall into my grandson’s palms. This is such a surprise!”

Yan Qiong reminded, “Nangong Boling is a sly man so he must have some ulterior motive, judging from his obsession with Apocalypse.”

Han Xiuzhi nodded. *Nangong Boling is cunning, and there is no way he would give up the position of the patriarch of the Nangong family without demanding something back. But Jingru isn’t easy to deal with, either. We’ll see, sly fox!*

Han Jingru was younger than Nangong Boling, but when it came to scheming, Han Jingru was at

no disadvantage.

Han Xiuzhi replied, “I believe Jingru won’t be on the losing side. After all, he’s the one with the upper hand.”

Yan Qiong nodded in agreement.

Han Xiuzhi noticed Shi Yan hesitating to say something.

Han Xiuzhi said, “Say whatever you want.”

Shi Yan took a glance at Su Yimo subconsciously and said, “Dad, Han Yu’s still in Qin City. It’s almost New Year, shouldn’t we bring him back?”

In the past, Han Yu had disguised himself as Han Jingru when he came to Yun City and almost ruined Su Yimo’s life. Shi Yan knew she shouldn’t mention Han Yu in front of Su Yimo, but she couldn’t help it, as Han Yu was her son.

Upon hearing her words, Su Yimo stood up silently and returned to her room.

Shi Yan let out a helpless sigh.

Han Xiuzhi said, “Han Yu went to jail because he brought everything upon himself. He is an adult so he must pay for his actions.” Han Yu was Han Xiuzhi’s grandson as well and enjoyed luxurious treatment as the young master of the Han family, but his achievement was far from being worthy of mentioning.

On the other hand, Han Jingru had been rejected by his family since young and never once lived like a young master. Yet, he changed his life and brought glory to the Han family. To Han Xiuzhi, Han Yu was so useless that he had no right to keep using the “Han” last name.

Shi Yan begged, “Dad, he’s crippled and he can’t do anything now. Can we just take him back home to celebrate the new year?”

Han Xiuzhi said coldly, “Do you think I didn’t know the reason he is crippled? If it weren’t for his ill intentions toward Su Yimo, Han Jingru wouldn’t have done anything to him. This is my final warning, Shi Yan. Never again mention his

name in front of Han Jingru and Su Yimo.”

Han Xiuzhi wasn't ruthless. Han Yu simply wasn't worthy of sympathy. Had Han Yu succeeded in his plot that day, the consequences would be unimaginable. That was why Han Xiuzhi could not care less about Han Yu now——he deserved this punishment.

“I understand.” Shi Yan lowered her head. Although she was soft-hearted, she didn't have the right to ask Han Jingru to forgive Han Yu because what he did wasn't something forgivable.

Han Jingru met with Nangong Boling at a hotel. Nangong Boling was extremely excited as he had wanted to meet Han Jingru for a long time. He even stayed in Yun City just to see Han Jingru.

Nangong Boling asked, “Jingru, when will you come with me to the Nangong family? You'll have to go through some ceremonies to inherit the position as the patriarch of the family.”

Han Jingru took a glance at Nangong Yan, who was standing beside Nangong Boling. Nangong

Yan was the last and only young generation of the Nangong family, so logically, he should be the heir.

Han Jingru said, “When the new year starts, I’ll go to Apocalypse so I won’t have time to go to the Nangong family.”

Nangong Boling wore a troubled expression and said, “It only needs a little of your time.”

Han Jingru said, “Mr. Yi is in Yun City now. Don’t tell me you’re thinking of making him go to the Nangong family as well?”

Nangong Boling’s expression changed. *Mr. Yi is in Yun City, too?*

I mustn’t waste Mr. Yi’s time, but what should I do with the matter regarding our patriarch?

Han Jingru said, “I’ll be the patriarch, but don’t organize those complicated ceremonies. Let Nangong Yan manage the family affairs while I’m away. What do you think?”

Nangong Boling said, “Of course. You can do whatever you want. You’re the patriarch of the Nangong family so we will follow your orders. However, I hope you can promise me one thing.”

I knew it! He must have some intentions of going to Apocalypse. And now you’ve shown your tail, you sly old fox.

Han Jingru asked, “What?”

He replied, “I hope you can take me to Apocalypse once before I die.”



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After finishing his words, Nangong Boling looked at Han Jingru eagerly; one could tell how excited he was to go to Apocalypse.

Han Jingru frowned.

Nangong Boling should know that Apocalypse isn't somewhere that is open to everyone. Why is he so desperate to go? Could it be that he knows some secrets of Apocalypse? Maybe there's something that he wants?

Han Jingru said, "Nangong Boling, you should know that you need Apocalypse's approval before venturing into their territory. And the only way to gain their approval is to prove your abilities. You're already an old man, so do you think you can satisfy their requirements?"

Nangong Boling shook his head and said, "I'm sure I can't make it, but you can, and I believe in your power. You will rise to a certain status in Apocalypse, and when the time comes, I hope you'll take me there."

Han Jingru asked, "Nangong Boling, why must

you go to Apocalypse?” *want to go to Apocalypse? Even if he gets there, knowledge is the only thing he*

Why would someone old and cunning like Nangong Boling offer the Nangong family in exchange for Han Jingru’s promise to take him to Apocalypse? *He must have benefits to gain from going there.*

Nangong Boling said, “I have my reasons. You only need to promise me this.”

Han Jingru said, “Even if I promise you now, there’s nothing you can do if I don’t keep it.”

Nangong Boling’s expression stiffened. After falling silent for a while, he said, “I believe you’ll keep your promises.”

Han Jingru always kept his promises. He was a man of honor, and would not make a promise he couldn’t keep. In his opinion, a man must fulfill his promises at all costs, or else he would be a disgrace. This was precisely why he wanted to find out Nangong Boling’s reason to go to

Apocalypse.

Han Jingru retorted, “If you don’t tell me the reason, I won’t become the patriarch of the Nangong family since this title does not mean much to me.”

Nangong Boling’s eyes faltered but he quickly regained his composure. “You want to help Fang Zhan to find her daughter? This can only be done with our resources. With our power and status, we can also protect your wife and daughter while you’re away. You must be concerned about their safety, do you not?”

Upon hearing his words, Han Jingru wore an icy expression. He reached out his hand and grabbed Nangong Boling at his throat. “Nangong Boling, are you threatening me? Do you know what’s the best way to eliminate a threat?”

Nangong Boling knew if Han Jingru wanted to kill him, he would certainly die in an instant. However, Nangong Boling’s stubbornness prevented him from giving in so easily.

Nangong Boling hurriedly explained, “I didn’t threaten you. I’m just telling you that we, the Nangong family, can protect them when you’re away.”

Han Jingru stared at Nangong Boling with a penetrating gaze.

Nangong Boling looked at him in the eye, showing no signs of avoiding him. The two went into a deadlock.

After a while, Han Jingru released Nangong Boling. To him, nothing was more important than the safety of Su Yimo and Han Xiang. *I do need someone to protect them when I’m in Apocalypse. The Nangong family should be capable of this.*

Han Jingru compromised. “Alright. I’ll bring you there when I’m qualified to.”

Nangong Boling’s eyes lit up. “Don’t worry. From now on, Su Yimo and Han Xiang will be in our hands. If something happens to them, I’ll offer my life as an apology.”

After saying his words, he turned to look at Nangong Yan. “Kneel.”

Nangong Yan was puzzled. *Why did he ask me to kneel?*

“I told you to kneel. Do you not hear me?” Nangong Boling scolded, noticing Nangong Yan still standing.

Nangong Yan had no choice but to kneel. After all, this was an order from his grandfather and he had no right to defy the latter’s command.

Nangong Boling said, “From today onward, Han Jingru is your master. When he goes to Apocalypse, you’ll manage the Nangong family on his behalf. Pledge to never betray your master.”

Nangong Boling’s words shocked Nangong Yan to the extreme. The latter couldn’t believe it. Even Han Jingru almost fell off his chair.

Master?

Why does Nangong Boling have such a bizarre idea? He's humiliating his own family. Does he not care about their dignity?

Taken aback by his words, Nangong Yan said, "Grandfather, you..."

Nangong Boling urged, "Listen to me. It will only benefit you. So, pledge."

Nangong Yan lowered his head, concealing his reluctance to do so. I can accept Han Jingru as the patriarch of the Nangong family, as he's going to Apocalypse. In the end, I'll be the de facto head of the family because I'm in charge of everything when he's away.

However, Nangong Yan felt Nangong Boling had gone too far. *I'm the young master of the Nangong family, so I should be the heir. We do not need an outsider as our patriarch. Obviously, Grandfather wants me to be Han Jingru's dog.*

Nangong Boling threatened, "If you don't do as I say, I'll exile you from the Nangong family."

Nangong Yan breathed in deeply. Nangong Boling's strong attitude made it clear that resistance was futile.

Being exiled from the Nangong family meant that Nangong Yan would lose everything he had. He couldn't accept this, either.

To lose everything all of a sudden, from riches to rags, was too much for Nangong Yan to handle.

Nangong Yan put up his right hand with three fingers pointing to the sky. "I swear. From now on, I'll never have any ill intentions toward my master. May the gods be the witnesses. If I betray my master, I shall die a horrible death."

Nangong Boling nodded in satisfaction. He turned to Han Jingru and said, "I believe he will never betray you."

Han Jingru let out a deep sigh. *What is Nangong Boling trying to achieve, playing his cards like this? But it seems he respects me greatly.*

Han Jingru said, "If there's nothing else, I'll take

my leave.”

“I’ll wait for you at the Nangong family.”

Nangong Boling bowed, watching Han Jingru leave silently.

After Han Jingru was far away, Nangong Boling said, “Get up.”

Nangong Yan stood up, lowering his head as he feared Nangong Boling would notice his reluctance.

Nangong Boling explained indifferently. “I know you did it unwillingly. But listen to me, you’ll benefit in the future. I can’t tell you everything right now, but one day, you’ll know. This world isn’t as simple as you think.”

“Grandfather, can benefits restore my dignity?”

Nangong Yan tried to ease his tone but he couldn’t conceal his dissatisfaction.

Nangong Boling laughed and asked, “Dignity? If you know what benefits you’ll get, you’ll give up your dignity willingly. Dignity is insignificant

when it comes to this benefit.”

Nangong Yan furrowed his brows. *Insignificant, he said. Is there something worthy enough for me to give up my dignity? Is there anything that we, the Nangongs, cannot get?*

Nangong Yan pleaded, “Grandfather, can’t you give me some more clues?”

Nangong Boling refused. “Given your current state of mind, it’s better for you not to know about this. Don’t worry, I’ll tell you one day. This is our Nangong family’s greatest secret.”

Han Jingru returned to the villa to find Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong pulling weeds in the garden.

He urged, “Grandpa, quickly go into the house. It’s freezing out here. You can leave it to the property management staff.”

“Jingru, you’re back. So, how did it go? What did Nangong Boling say?” Han Xiuzhi was curious as he was eager to know what happened. In his

opinion, Han Jingru would not lose to Nangong Boling in a mental battle.



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On this matter, Han Jingru was rather troubled as he couldn't comprehend Nangong Boling's intentions. And the sudden pledge of loyalty by Nangong Yan made Han Jingru completely bewildered.

"Let's talk in the house." Han Jingru sighed.

Han Xiuzhi took a glance at Yan Qiong. *It seems we both guessed wrongly.*

Both of them followed Han Jingru into the house.

"So... what happened?" Sitting on the sofa, Han Xiuzhi asked impatiently.

Han Jingru replied, "Nangong Boling made a request."

Han Xiuzhi smiled with disdain. *What is he planning? He is begging Han Jingru to be the patriarch of the Nangong family, so why is he making a request? Is he so foolish not to realize he didn't have any right to do that?*

Han Xiuzhi asked, "Is he insane? He dared to

demand something from you?”

Han Jingru said, “I wish for Su Yimo and Han Xiang’s safety, so he used the Nangong family’s forces as his trump card.”

Upon hearing his words, Han Xiuzhi understood immediately. Even though Han Jingru had advantages in negotiations, Nangong Boling found his weakness, which was his wife and daughter. As a committed family man, Han Jingru would do anything for Su Yimo and Han Xiang.

Han Xiuzhi asked, “What did he request?”

Han Jingru replied, “He wants to visit Apocalypse, but he didn’t tell me why.”

Han Xiuzhi looked at Yan Qiong subconsciously to see if he knew anything about this. However, Yan Qiong shook his head. He knew little of Apocalypse, so he couldn’t guess what Nangong Boling was plotting.

Han Jingru continued, “He also made Nangong

Yan kneel and pledge his allegiance to me.”

Both Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong were confused and shocked.

Nangong Yan was the grandson of Nangong Boling. His status wasn't as high as Han Jingru's, but he had no need to acknowledge Han Jingru as his master. It was weird for Nangong Boling to force Nangong Yan into this.

Han Xiuzhi asked, “What is he trying to do? Does he not care about the dignity of his family?”

“If I knew what he was trying to do, I wouldn't be so troubled.” Han Jingru sighed.

Suddenly, Yan Qiong said, “Could it be that there's something Nangong Boling wants in Apocalypse, so he offered you the position of the patriarch of the family, and sold his family's dignity for your trust?”

“Something he wants...” Han Jingru furrowed his brows. *Nangong Boling shouldn't know much about Apocalypse, so why is he so interested in their things?*

Or, could it be that Nangong Boling knew something about Apocalypse?

“It could be possible. Since Nangong Boling sacrificed his family, he must be aiming for something more valuable.” Han Xiuzhi agreed with Yan Qiong’s surmise, as the former also could not think of any other possibilities to Nangong Boling’s actions.

“It seems Nangong Boling knows something about Apocalypse. This tricky old man, how dare he toy with me!” Han Jingru gritted his teeth.

Han Xiuzhi reminded, “Jingru, you have the upper hand so you don’t have to hurry to settle scores with Nangong Boling. Although no one in Yun City dares to scheme on Yimo and Xiang, they are still better off with the Nangong family’s protection.”

Han Jingru nodded in agreement as he knew he mustn’t fall out with Nangong Boling, but he was extremely curious about what Nangong Boling

wanted from Apocalypse.

“Don’t tell Mr. Yi about this. It’s too much of a risk. If Mr. Yi gets angry, he may stop favoring you.” Han Xiuzhi advised as he feared Han Jingru would ask Mr. Yi about the valuables in Apocalypse and ruin his own future in the organization.

“Yeah.” Han Jingru sighed and tried to suppress his curiosity.

“You’re going back to Yan City tomorrow. Are you ready?” Han Xiuzhi shifted the topic.

Han Jingru smiled indifferently. *It’s just going back to Yan City. There’s no need for any preparations.* He said, “Grandpa, to me, Yan City is just a bigger city than Yun City, and there’s no difference between the two.”

Han Xiuzhi laughed. *Bigger? That’s it? I like how domineering you are, Jingru.*

Yan Qiong smiled. “The whole of Yan City is in an uproar now. Who knows how many people

will be enraged hearing what you just said.”

Han Jingru asked Mo Lan to spread the news in Yan City. The news infuriated everyone in the city, especially those who held grudges against the Han family. Those prominent families couldn't bring themselves to kneel at the Han Residence to ask for forgiveness. They felt it was sheer humiliation and demanded to tear Han Jingru apart to vent their resentment.

Han Jingru chuckled. “Nice! The angrier they get, the better. It would be best if they could show themselves so I don't have to waste my time finding each one of them.”

Han Xiuzhi shook his head helplessly. ”Lad, you're much more domineering than I was. It's time for them to know the name of the heir to the Han family. Jingru, show them what you're made of.”

Han Jingru said, “Grandpa, I'm nothing compared to you. If you not for you, I would not be where I am now.”

Han Xiuzhi laughed; he was very satisfied with Han Jingru's words.

Yan City.

Han Jingru's challenge had gone viral in the upper-class society, but many people didn't care about it as they weren't afraid of Han Jingru, whether or not Han Xiuzhi was still alive.

After all, Han Xiuzhi was old and not as intimidating as before. Besides, the tables had turned, and the Han family's influence on Yan City had become insignificant. Thus, no one batted an eye at Han Jingru's challenge.

“This brat from the Han family doesn't know his place, does he? How arrogant!”

“Even Han Yu, whom the Hans placed their hopes on, is living in terrible condition in Qin City. And this Han Jingru dares to be so audacious? Who does he think he is? How ridiculous!”

“This time, he won't be able to escape

unscathed.”

“Those prominent families which hold grudges against the Han family hired many professional bodyguards to take down Han Jingru. It had better not be all talk, as I’m excited to see how that b*stard will die.”

Similar comments spread within the upper-class society. No one took Han Jingru seriously; everyone thought of him as a laughingstock.

At the Zhong family.

Covering an area of nearly four acres, the Zhong family villa was grand, giving off an imposing aura of immense wealth and status. Only the Zhongs could own such a vast land on which to build their villa.

After Han Li died, the Zhong family was the first to pick on the Han family. Driven by their greed, they even thought of taking over the Han family’s assets. When they heard Han Jingru’s challenge, they were the angriest people in the entire Yan City.

Zhong Mingguo was the patriarch of the Zhong family. “How dare this Han Jingru provoke us!” He wore a blank expression, but his eyes were ablaze with fury.

Zhong Tianyi said, “Grandpa, I heard that this trash died of illness long ago but didn’t realize he was actually exiled from the Han family. He ran away to Yun City and is now planning to cause trouble coming back here. Are the Hans so dumb to make their abandoned son act all high and mighty in front of us?” Zhong Tianyi was the rising star among the youth of the Zhong family, and he was a capable person.

Zhong Mingguo once gave the junior family members a chance to prove themselves. Each of them received five million as their investment funds. Zhong Tianyi had an absolute advantage and he passed the test, surpassing others. By now, Zhong Tianyi’s personal assets had reached at least one billion.

Another member of the Zhong family smiled mockingly. “He isn’t just an abandoned son. He became a live-in son-in-law of some small family in Yun

City. Everyone in Yun City called him a loser.” His comment made everyone else burst into laughter.

Han Jingru is the son of the Han family. Yet, he became a live-in son-in-law! How pathetic!



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“I don’t care what kind of a trash he is. Since he has said something like this, he has to pay for it.” Zhong Mingguo interrupted the laughter before turning to look at his grandchildren.

The grandchildren knew it was the opportunity to showcase their abilities in front of Zhong Mingguo, and that was why they were fighting against each other to get it.

In a large family like the Zhong family, the dispute to become the heir to the family business was a cruel one. Even family members murdering each other was a common occurrence. After all, the Zhong family had an extensive business portfolio that everyone wanted for themselves. For any descendants to inherit the family business, they had to first gain Zhong Mingguo’s approval.

Among the grandchildren, only Zhong Tianyi remained silent the entire time. In fact, he looked as though he was disinterested in the matter.

“Tianyi, are you not interested in this?” Zhong Mingguo asked. It was clear in his question that

he paid great attention to Zhong Tianyi.

Zhong Tianyi gave him a smile as he replied, “Grandpa, I don’t need to deal with a trash like him myself, do I? I’ll leave it to them. Those with higher statuses don’t need to bother themselves with trivial matters like this. Otherwise, they’ll tire themselves out quickly.”

Zhong Tianyi’s words instantly upset the others. *Those with higher statuses don’t need to bother themselves with minor matters like this? He obviously sees himself as someone important and thinks of us as lower in status than him.*

“Zhong Tianyi, what do you mean? You’re acting all high and mighty. Do you think we’re servants?”

“I say you don’t have the guts to deal with Han Jingru yourself, do you? Don’t pretend that you’re too good to deal with him.”

“What can you do other than being a poser?”

The few people were commenting on his words

with disdain, but Zhong Tianyi's expression remained calm, as though none of their words could affect him.

“Why are you all so anxious? I'm just stating the fact. He's only a piece of trash, but you're already fighting over this. What's the point of it? The Zhong family can easily deal with a piece of trash like him,” Zhong Tianyi muttered.

No one could refute his words. It was true that Han Jingru was nothing but a piece of crap to them. It wouldn't add value to their capabilities if they were able to deal with someone like him—anyone could deal with a small fry like him.

In terms of dealing with matters, Zhong Tianyi was better than the others. He was calmer, and he could figure out whether or not dealing with a matter was worth his time.

His words and actions made Zhong Mingguo nod in satisfaction. The Zhong family needed someone who was calm and collected at all times, not someone who was impulsive. That was the only way the Zhong family could grow stronger.

It was apparent that Zhong Tianyi fitted the description.

“Tianyi, you won’t need to get yourself involved with this. You can go ahead with your own affairs,” Zhong Mingguo said.

“Thank you, Grandpa. It’s really not worth it to waste my time over a small matter like this,” Zhong Tianyi laughed.

“Grandpa, since Zhong Tianyi thinks this is a small matter and isn’t interested in dealing with it, please let me bear the responsibility instead. I’ll guarantee that Han Jingru couldn’t even make it out of the airport. I’ll make him kneel and take back those words of his as well as to get out of Yan City forever,” Zhong Tianli determinedly said as he stood up.

A faint smile grew on Zhong Tianyi’s face. He and Zhong Tianli had always been at odds, so he knew Zhong Tianli was hoping to gain an upper hand on him. However, Zhong Tianli’s eagerness on this matter reflected his feelings of inferiority towards Zhong Tianyi.

“Zhong Tianli, I heard your company is facing some financial crisis. Do you have the time to deal with these things?” Zhong Tianyi chuckled.

Upon hearing his words, Zhong Tianli’s expression darkened.

Zhong Mingguo had given him five million back then, but his company was worlds apart from Zhong Tianyi’s. Not only was his company facing a financial crisis, but it also had tons of debts. It was incomparable to Zhong Tianyi’s company’s billions of net worth.

“Zhong Tianyi, if you want to become the head of the family, you can’t only have a business mind,” Zhong Tianli scoffed.

Zhong Tianyi burst into laughter. “You can only hire talented people if you’re rich. Are you planning to deal with Han Jingru by yourself?”

“Of course. Even if there are ten of him, he’s still no match for me,” Zhong Tianli responded.

A trace of joy flashed past Zhong Tianyi’s eyes. *It looks like this idiot barely knows anything about*

t Han Jingru. He actually thinks heet rid of this thorn in my flesh.

“If you can get Han Jingru to get out of Yun City by yourself, I’ll give you my company. How about that?” Zhong Tianyi provoked.

Zhong Tianli froze. *How fortunate can I be?* Zhong Tianyi’s company was worth billions. If Zhong Tianli could get his company, he could rise to glory again.

“Since you’ve made your offer in front of Grandpa, you can’t possibly take back your words later, right?” Zhong Tianli sneered.

“Of course not. I’m a man of my word,” Zhong Tianyi reassured.

“Good. I hope you prepare the equity transfer agreement soon. Hahaha!” Zhong Tianli laughed boisterously.

Idiot! If he doesn’t bring the Zhong family’s bodyguards with him when he looks for Han Jingru, he must have a death wish. Zhong Tianyi cursed in his heart.

“All right. Tianli will be the one in charge for this,” Zhong Mingguo announced.

With a look of gratitude, Zhong Tianli exclaimed, “Thank you, Grandpa. I won’t disappoint you.”

Yun City.

When Han Jingru asked Shi Yan about the situation in Yan City, Shi Yan mentioned about the matters with Zhong family. After all, the Zhong family was the first to pressure the Han family. In other words, the Zhong family was leading the entire Yan City to target the Han family.

“The one who sticks out the most will be the first to die. It looks like the Zhong family will be saving some time for me,” Han Jingru chuckled. He had been worried that he would be spending a long while in Yan City because of the number enemies he had, but things were going to be easier with the Zhong family around.

The Zhong family was the most powerful family among the prominent families in Yan City. Once he dealt with them, the others would be swift to apologize on their knees at Han Residence.

“You shouldn’t underestimate the Zhong family’s influence in Yan City. Be careful,” Shi Yan reminded.

Her words made Han Xiuzhi laugh. With Han Jingru’s current capabilities, the normal elites were nothing to him. The Zhong family was rich, but could they be compared with the Nangong family? The Zhong family’s fighting prowess was even less of a problem. Even if the Zhong family gathered all the fighters they could, they were still no match for Han Jingru.

“Don’t worry. With how great Jingru is now, not even ten Zhong families can save them,” Han Xiuzhi uttered.

Shi Yan knew how powerful Han Jingru was, but she was only reminding him because it was a display of her concern.

The next day, the Han family appeared at Yun City's airport. Other than Ho Ting and Su Wenlun, who stayed behind at Yun City, the others boarded the flight. Within the group was Jiang Yingying.

The reason for Han Jingru to bring Jiang Yingying along was because he needed her to get used to the other side of the society as quickly as possible. After all, she had to face the unknown Apocalypse in the near future, and she needed time to get used to a different world.

On the plane, Han Jingru carried Han Xiang in his arms the entire time. As the girl was only a month old, she was often sleeping and eating. It was rare for her to be awake and playing. However, in Han Jingru's arms, she stayed awake. She kept staring at him as though she could recognize her father.

Su Yimo joked that perhaps Han Xiang did not truly lose her memories of her past life, and she was the reincarnation of Han Jingru's past lover.

Their trip was a merry one, and soon, the plane

landed in Yan City's airport.

Meanwhile, Zhong Tianli was right outside the airport waiting for Han Jingru. The confidence he was exuding was as though he was sure he could be a one-man army.

This was the opportunity for Zhong Tianli to prove himself and save his company. There was no way he would be prepared to lose this fight. Moreover, as he often had boxing training, the sense of confidence in him was beyond inflated.

How can a live-in son-in-law who was abandoned by his family be anyone capable? I'm worried he won't even be able to take a punch from me.



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“Isn’t that Zhong Tianli? He’s tall and cool. How handsome!”

“I didn’t think he’d be this handsome. He looks like the white knight of my dreams.”

“If only I can marry into the Zhong family. I will be able to live a life of luxury!”

Zhong Tianli kept a high profile in Yan City. Hence, many women were staring at him with infatuated gazes once they saw him. Zhong Tianli enjoyed the attention. It made him feel like he was in a class above them. If he were not on a mission, he would have asked the few better-looking women for their contacts. He would then have some fun with them when he was free.

However, that was the day for Zhong Tianli to prove himself. He would not let his desires ruin the task he was entrusted with. At that moment, a mature, sensual woman walked in front of Zhong Tianli before taking off her jacket. She puffed up her chest and showed off her outstanding figure.

“Zhong Tianli, do you have the courage to play

with me in the hotel? I'll make sure you won't be able to climb off the bed," the woman muttered. Zhong Tianli had seen many kinds of ways to strike up a conversation, and all the women bore thoughts of marrying into a rich family when they came to him. This was the first time Zhong Tianli had seen someone as straightforward as that woman.

Furthermore, the woman piqued his interest. She was like a ripe peach, and he really wanted to have a taste of her. "Not today." Zhong Tianli shook his head.

The woman puffed up her chest again, seemingly unwilling to admit defeat, and said, "So I take it that you don't have the courage to?" Zhong Tianli smirked. "There's nothing I don't dare to do, but I have something more important to attend to right now."

"I'll wait for you," the woman whispered. "Sure." The corner of Zhong Tianli's lips turned upward. Chasing Han Jingru back to Yun City was not going to take long, and he could play with this woman later in the day. Overall, it seemed like a

good day.

Soon, Han Jingru and the others appeared by the entrance of the airport. When Zhong Tianli saw Han Jingru, the look on his face turned cold. However, the woman beside him froze before she quickly lowered her head.

Zhong Tianli took quick strides toward Han Jingru. He could not wait to tell the good news to the Zhong family and show Zhong Tianyi how capable he was. Han Jingru spotted the man striding toward them. Although he did not know who he was, but judging by the looks of it, it was evident that the man was here to look for trouble.

He said to Su Yimo, who was carrying Han Xiang, “Yimo, go to Grandpa.” Su Yimo, too, spotted Zhong Tianli. To ensure Han Xiang’s safety, she promptly went behind Han Xiuzhi. At the same time, Yan Qiong stood by Su Yimo’s side in case anyone pulled a sudden attack from the side.

“You’re Han Jingru?” Zhong Tianli asked.

“Obviously,” Han Jingru answered.

“You’re an arrogant one to say such things in Yan City. But do you know what’s the price for being arrogant?” Zhong Tianli questioned. “I’m guessing that you’re thinking of ways to teach me a lesson. But to teach me a lesson, you must first know how powerful you are. Here’s a warning for you. Don’t embarrass yourself in public,” Han Jingru kindly advised.

Right then, Shi Yan said to Han Jingru, “He’s from the Zhong family.” Han Jingru raised a brow in realization. He did not think that the Zhong family would be so swift to come to him. *I won’t let him off so easily, then.*

“Han Jingru, you’re biting off more than you can chew.” Zhong Tianli took off his jacket and revealed his muscles. The muscles he had were stunning. At the very least, the average person would be wary at the sight of it. However, to Han Jingru, Zhong Tianli was like a three-year-old showing off. There was no need for him to fear the other man. In fact, Han Jingru felt the urge to burst into laughter.

“Are the members of the Zhong family all

muscular idiots like you? If that's the case, I wonder if I've overestimated the Zhong family," Han Jingru remarked in disdain. Zhong Tianli frowned, anger starting to boil in him. For someone of his build, the comment he hated to hear the most was a "muscular idiot."

At the same time, Han Jingru's words stunned the surrounding people. Everyone knew that the Zhong family was an impressive and famous family in Yan City. Han Jingru provoking Zhong Tianli in public was the equivalence to declaring that he had a death wish. "Who is he? I can't believe he's disrespecting Zhong Tianli."

"He must be an idiot to cross Zhong Tianli."

"What do you mean, he's from somewhere else? Look at that middle-aged woman behind him. If I'm not wrong, she's Shi Yan from the Han family."

"The Han family? Isn't Han Yu in jail? Who is she?"

Few knew that Han Jingru was also part of the

Han family, and those few were from the upper-class society. For the ordinary residents, Han Jingru was a name they had never heard of. That was the sorrow that Han Jingru once had. He was the son of the Han family, yet no one knew about him.

This was all due to Nangong Shuxian. If Nangong Shuxian had not locked Han Jingru in the house and refused to bring him to any public events, Han Jingru would not have been a nobody. However, Han Jingru no longer needed to care about it. Soon, the entire Yan City would hear his name.

Just then, Su Yimo muttered to Han Jingru, “Your daughter’s hungry.” Han Jingru nodded and replied, “Give me a minute. I’ll deal with this as quickly as possible.”

His words infuriated Zhong Tianli. He did not think that Han Jingru would look down on him like this. *Did he think he could take me down in just a minute?* “Han Jingru, you’re as good as dead!” Zhong Tianli grounded out.

“I’m glad you are an optimistic person,” Han Jingru said as he slowly stepped toward Zhong Tianli. Zhong Tianli was sure that he had the upper hand, and that was why he was not worried about his chances of winning against Han Jingru.

That was a thought shared by those who were watching them. After all, they were sure that Han Jingru was no match for Zhong Tianli. However, what happened next dumbfounded them.

When Han Jingru was close to him, he swung his fist so quick that the crowd failed to notice. The next thing they knew, Han Jingru had already smashed his fist onto Zhong Tianli’s chest. Zhong Tianli howled from the agony as he took a few steps back. Unable to react in time as well, the surrounding people fell to the ground when Zhong Tianli collided with them.

In a blink of an eye, the noisy crowd fell abnormally silent. No one had expected Han Jingru to finish the fight with Zhong Tianli with only a punch.

Everyone had a different look on their faces now

when they turned to look at Han Jingru. They were now looking at him in disbelief. “This guy is incredible. Zhong Tianli couldn’t even withstand a punch from him.”

“Zhong Tianli’s muscles are all for naught. I can’t believe he can’t even take a punch. Is he made of paper?”

“He’s embarrassing himself and the Zhong family.”

Zhong Tianli remained on the ground. The pain in his chest had yet to subside, and he could not muster the strength to stand up. Right then, Han Jingru walked toward him and looked down at the fallen man.

“Looks like your steroid-built muscles are useless,” Han Jingru commented. Zhong Tianli never expected things to turn out this way. A moment ago, he was worried that Han Jingru could not take a punch from him. As it turned out, it was the complete opposite—he was the one who could not take a punch from Han Jingru.

How can this be?”This isn’t over,” Zhong Tianli hissed.

At that, Han Jingru raised his foot to step on Zhong Tianli’s chest. The latter tried to break free, but he realized in shock that Han Jingru’s foot was holding him still like a six-ton stone—he could not even move. “Tell the Zhong family that I, Han Jingru, will be visiting them myself. When that happens, everyone from the Zhong family has to welcome me on their knees,” Han Jingru informed.

Welcome him on their knees! His words made the crowd went wild.

Is he out of his mind! Zhong Mingguo was a man who stood at the top of the pyramid. How could he possibly kneel to Han Jingru?”This guy must be crazy to provoke the Zhong family.”

“It looks like there’ll be a show to watch. I wonder how the Zhong family will deal with him.”

“Although this guy is arrogant, but it’s pretty

entertaining to see him provoke the Zhong family. What a pity that he might not be able to pay the price for it.”



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Just as everyone was discussing about the situation, a woman walked in front of Han Jingru and commanded, “Let him go.”

Han Jingru raised his head and widened his eyes when he saw the familiar face. *Mi Xiaoxing!*

She was the woman who wanted to prove that women could succeed without needing to rely on men. She refused to bow to the hidden rules of society. Han Jingru didn't expect to meet her here. Although many things had happened between Han Jingru and Mi Xiaoxing, he did not see her as an enemy. In fact, he admired her despite her once thinking that Han Jingru was in love with her and had more than once made things difficult for him.

Mi Xiaoxing was a beautiful woman. She could easily find a rich man with her looks and enjoy a luxurious life. However, Mi Xiaoxing was adamant about staying in her job and refusing to bow her head to money. It was rare for a woman to behave this way.

However, she was in Yan City, and she was an

associate of Zhong Tianli. It seemed like the Mi Xiaoxing who had once worked hard had fallen from grace. In the end, she was a pawn of money. “I didn’t think I’d see you here. Where’s Yang Meng?” Han Jingru asked. She and Yang Meng rarely separated—they were together at any time and any place. Han Jingru felt odd that he saw no signs of Yang Meng around her.

A trace of bitterness flitted across Mi Xiaoxing’s eyes. The moment she chose to bow to money back then, she had left Yang Meng. She knew she no longer belonged to the same world as Yang Meng, and she did not want Yang Meng to see that side of her. “This is none of your concern. I’m asking you to let him go,” Mi Xiaoxing gritted out.

Han Jingru glanced at Zhong Tianli with a contemptuous look. Although he did not know what kind of relationship Mi Xiaoxing had with Zhong Tianli, if Mi Xiaoxing was helping Zhong Tianli, that meant that she was hoping to get closer to Zhong Tianli. “There are many other rich people in Yan City. I’d suggest that you don’t get involved with the Zhong family. Otherwise,

your efforts will go to waste,” Han Jingru pointed out. He did not care about the ways Mi Xiaoxing used to survive in life or the thoughts she had while doing it. He was only giving a kind reminder to Mi Xiaoxing, as he could see the imminent demise of the Zhong family.

“I’ll get myself involved with whoever I like. This is none of your business.” Mi Xiaoxing stepped forward to shove Han Jingru aside. Upon seeing Mi Xiaoxing’s action, anger grew in Su Yimo. She would never intervene in a men’s fight, but a woman was now bullying her man. This was something she could not take silently.

After handing Han Xiang to Shi Yan, Su Yimo walked toward Han Jingru and roared at Mi Xiaoxing, “He’s only advising you. If you don’t want to listen to him, you can regret your actions later. Don’t be ungrateful.”

Every time Mi Xiaoxing saw Su Yimo, she felt ashamed. That was because she once thought Han Jingru had a crush on her. She used to think that Han Jingru was a toad who was trying to get the swan, but after finding out who Han Jingru was

and that Su Yimo was his wife, she realized how foolish her thoughts were. Although Mi Xiaoxing was pretty, but she was still worlds apart from Su Yimo. If Han Jingru had a beautiful wife, why would he fall in love with her?

Mi Xiaoxing lowered her head as she helped Zhong Tianli up before they left in silence. “Who was that?” Su Yimo asked, confused.

“No one important. Let’s go. It’s bad to starve our daughter,” Han Jingru responded. Su Yimo nodded quickly.

They then left the airport and went to the side of the road, where Qin Fu had parked the car. When Qin Fu saw Han Jingru, he walked toward him and greeted, “Jingru.”

“Qin Fu!” Shi Yan had a look of shock on her face when she saw Qin Fu. Although Qin Fu was not as famous as the prominent families, but his company—Dynasty, was famous in Yan City. More importantly, as a man who built his company from scratch, he was the role model of many young entrepreneurs. In a way, he was

famous within the corporate world of Yan City.

Besides the skull incident, Dynasty was the most well-protected secret Han Jingru had. It was his token to turn the tide. Hence, other than Zhong Ji and him, no one else knew about it. Back then, Nangong Shuxian's oppression forced the young Han Jingru to create a hidden force of his own. Decades have passed, and Dynasty had become the ace up his sleeve. The company was the source of his money, and Nangong Shuxian never found out about it.

"Mrs. Han, I didn't think you'd know me. I'm honored," Qin Fu stated. Shi Yan glanced at Han Jingru in confusion, seemingly waiting for him to give her an explanation.

"Dynasty is actually my company. I found out Nangong Shuxian saw me as an outsider when I was fourteen, so I realized I have to have an ace up my sleeve. Thus, I secretly created Dynasty," Han Jingru explained. "B-But you were only fourteen!" Shi Yan's expression was a mix of disbelief and shock. She could not work out how was it even possible for a teenage boy to build a

company.

“Is fourteen an age too young?” Han Jingru shook his head and continued, “To me, it isn’t. I was often unfairly treated, and I knew very well that I’d become a pawn if I don’t have an ace up my sleeve. I’ll be under Han Yu for the rest of my life.” Shi Yan took in a deep breath before slowly breathing out. This was a knowledge that sounded unbelievable to her ears. For a moment, she even pondered if she was dreaming.

When he was fourteen, he was rejected by Nangong Shuxian as a waste of space. In the woman’s heart, Han Yu was the one who could be the pillar of the family in the future. Therefore, she poured all her love into Han Yu. Yet, she never realized Han Jingru’s capability and that the latter had already built a company of his own. “If Nangong Shuxian would pay more attention to you, she would’ve realized you were the Han family’s future,” Shi Yan sighed.

Han Jingru sneered. *So what if she knew? Will she recognize my capabilities? She won’t.* Han Jingru was sure. Even if Nangong Shuxian found out about it, she would only think of ways to ruin Dynasty. She would never approve o

f Han Jingru's abilities.

“Let the past stay in the past, and let's not talk about it anymore. Time to head home,” Han Xiuzhi interrupted. The group of people then boarded the car and headed toward Han family.

Although Han Jingru had given out his instructions, none from the Han Residence got on their knees. It was normal. After all, no one would do something as humiliating as kneeling to a man before they found out how impressive he was. Moreover, the Zhong family was backing them up. All they needed to do was to hide in a corner and watch the scene unfold. They did not need to declare which side they were on so quickly.

“It seems like they won't apologize until they're taught a lesson,” Han Jingru observed. “Jingru, dignity is of utmost importance to these people. They'll only realize that their dignity is worth nothing when their lives are in danger.”

Han Jingru nodded in agreement. For Han Jingru, the Han Residence was a place filled with

childhood memories. Unfortunately, his childhood had not been a happy one, and that was why he had no sense of nostalgia toward this place.

On the other hand, Su Yimo was looking around enthusiastically. This was Han Jingru's home, and she had never been here even after marrying him for many years. "Jingru, your house is enormous," Su Yimo exclaimed. The mountain villa was already large for her, but this house was much bigger than it. Moreover, every plot of land was extremely valuable in Yan City. The price of the mountain villa was incomparable to Han Residence.

"This isn't my house. I'll take you to see my true home," Han Jingru muttered. Su Yimo did not quite understand what Han Jingru meant. *Isn't this the Han family's house? Why isn't this his house?*

She then followed Han Jingru to a small house in the backyard. The house looked vastly different from the other parts of the Han family. Instead of a house, it looked more like a dumpsite. "This is

where I live. Nangong Shuxian once locked me in here for half a year, without allowing me to take a step out of the house the entire time,” Han Jingru revealed.



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“I used to be someone whom even the servants can mock and bully. Nangong Shuxian even taught Han Yu to hit me. I’m not part of the Han family to her at all,” Han Jingru continued.

After hearing his words, Su Yimo’s heart ached to the point where she could not breathe. She could not imagine what kind of sufferings the young Han Jingru had to go through. He was part of the Han family too, but the way he was treated at home was worlds apart from Han Yu. *No wonder he hates Nangong Shuxian. If I were in his place, I’d never forgive her.*

“You asked me in the past whether I feel upset when Jiang Yan cursed and hit me. Now, do you know why I said no? I’ve suffered worse. The humiliation Jiang Yan brought to me is nothing but a speck of dust compared to this,” Han Jingru explained. Grabbing Han Jingru’s hands, Su Yimo murmured, “Jingru, can I go in and take a look?”

Han Jingru laughed and replied, “Of course. This is your husband’s house, and it’s yours too.” At that, he led her into the house.

The room was simple, and since no one had been living in the Han Residence for a long time, the dust had coated the pieces of furniture. Even cobwebs were in every corner of the room. Su Yimo feared insects. In the past, if someone were to invite her to a place like this, she would firmly reject their invitation. However, not only was she not afraid of the house, but she even wanted to clean it up.

This was Han Jingru's house, and it was also hers. The old wooden bed was creaking, but Su Yimo ignored the thick layer of dust and sat on it. She dangled her legs and said to Han Jingru, "Can we stay here tonight?"

"Of course. I'm not used to living in other rooms anyway," Han Jingru answered with a smile.

"Then, I'll clean this place up. I want our house to be clean," Su Yimo uttered.

Immediately, Su Yimo got to work. She filled a bucket of water and started cleaning with a rag. Naturally, Han Jingru did not just sit and watch her. He stood up and helped her out. "What does this mean?" Su Yimo asked when she saw the

words Han Jingru carved.

“No place in this world is for me. I might as well make a place of my own,” Han Jingru explained. Su Yimo hummed as a response after hearing his explanation. This was a thought Han Jingru had since young, and he had now succeeded in achieving it.

After cleaning the room, Su Yimo was exhausted and soaked in sweat. Abruptly, a thought entered Han Jingru’s mind, and he said to her, “Do you want to try the way I used to shower?”

“Of course,” Su Yimo replied without hesitation. She wanted to try out the way Han Jingru used to live. That was the only way she felt she could understand him better. “But it’s winter now. I don’t know if you can withstand it,” Han Jingru said in doubt.

Su Yimo creased her brows in displeasure. “If you can withstand it, then why can’t I? Are you looking down on me?” Han Jingru laughed before he led her to another secret place of his in the backyard.

The spot was almost completely hidden, and even the servants rarely went there back then. As Han Jingru lived in the storage room, he did not have a supply of hot water. Showering in the summer was not an issue, but showering in the winter was. However, Han Jingru had found the pipe for Han Residence's hot water here. After his discovery, he installed a valve and made the place into a shower spot with hot water for himself.

“This is the place?” Su Yimo stared at Han Jingru, dumbfounded, upon reaching the place. There was nowhere to hide, and Su Yimo couldn't even imagine showering in a place with no coverage, fully exposed. “There's only a wall to cover me, but that's enough. Even if someone comes to the backyard, they won't notice this spot.” With that said, Han Jingru pulled out a brick from the wall.

From the outside, the brick looked normal. However, when Han Jingru took it out, she realized that the brick was only half its normal size. There was a gap in the wall where the half-sized brick would have left. He then took out a piece of soap and said, “I used this when I was

younger, but I don't think it can still be used."

Just as Han Jingru was about to throw it away, Su Yimo snatched it from him. "Who said it can't be used? I think it's totally fine." Han Jingru smiled. He knew she wanted to experience the life he had back then, and her actions moved him.

"Are we doing this together, or do you want to go first?" Han Jingru asked gently. Instantly, Su Yimo's face flushed red. Although she was married to him for many years, they had never showered together.

"Keep dreaming. Watch out for others for me. No peeking," Su Yimo threatened with a waving fist. Han Jingru nodded fervently before turning away from her.

Su Yimo lowered her head, which was red with embarrassment, and slowly took off her clothing. When she turned on the hot water valve, she was instantly shrouded in the mist like a deity who had arrived in the mortal world.

Han Jingru could not help but turn, hoping to get

a glimpse of her. Unfortunately for him, Su Yimo was quick to realize, and she instantly shouted at him. Her voice stunned Han Jingru, and he promptly turned away. After a moment, he realized it was normal for him to see his wife shower. He was not a peeping tom, so why should he feel guilty about it?

Hence, Han Jingru turned around again and stared right at Su Yimo. Shyly, Su Yimo hastily said, “What are you doing? Turn around now.”

“You’re my wife. Which part of you have I not seen?” Han Jingru chuckled. His words made Su Yimo feel even more embarrassed, but she had no way to stop him. Hence, she could only leave him be.

After the two showered, they did not engage in any sexual acts. After all, it was still daytime, and it did not seem appropriate. Meanwhile, Zhong Tianli had returned to the Zhong family with a hung head.

The Zhong family members had heard about what happened at the airport. They didn’t need

Zhong Tianli to tell them anything. The matter made Zhong Mingguo angry. Zhong Tianli had sworn to make Han Jingru scam to Yun City, but he ended up embarrassing the Zhong family in public instead.

“Zhong Tianli, do you still remember what you said to me? You said you’re going to make Han Jingru scam back to Yun City from the airport. But now everyone is laughing at the Zhong family. Can you bear the responsibility for this matter?” Zhong Mingguo criticized. Zhong Tianli had underestimated Han Jingru. He could not believe he did not even have the chance to defend himself.

“Grandpa, Han Jingru is very strong. Even our bodyguards might not be a match for him,” Zhong Tianli informed. At his words, Zhong Tianyi snorted. “Zhong Tianli, it’s one thing for you to be useless, but are you trying to drag the others into hell with you? Do you think they’re all rubbish like you?”

A cold look crept upon Zhong Tianli’s face.

“Zhong Tianyi, don’t make things worse. Han

Jingru isn't as simple as we think he is." Of course, Zhong Tianyi knew he was not. He had even hoped that Han Jingru would get rid of Zhong Tianli for him. However, even if he knew Han Jingru was no simple person, the latter was still not worth Zhong Tianyi's time.

Zhong Tianyi was sure that it would only be a matter of time for Han Jingru to be chased out of Yan City the moment he took the matter into his hands. "Zhong Tianli, with results like this, do you still think I'd value you? Are you worthy of my time?" Zhong Mingguo questioned.

Zhong Tianli instantly panicked. He had gone against Han Jingru, hoping to prove his worth. However, the complete opposite had happened. If it ended this way, he could not face the others in the Zhong family for the rest of his life.

"Grandpa, please give me another chance. I won't let you down this time," Zhong Tianli hastily said.

"You've embarrassed us once. Am I going to give you another chance to embarrass the Zhong family again?" Zhong Mingguo frigidly uttered.

“Grandpa, I’ll bring the elite fighters with me this time. I guarantee I won’t embarrass the family,” Zhong Tianli anxiously responded.

Zhong Mingguo no longer believed in Zhong Tianli. He now only had his trust on Zhong Tianyi. Thus, he hoped Zhong Tianyi would take the matter into his hands and recover the dignity that Zhong Tianli had lost. “Tianyi, what do you think?” Zhong Mingguo inquired.

Unlike the others, Zhong Tianyi had no strong intention to stand out. After all, he was already the most outstanding among the younger members of the family. That was why he was in no hurry to deal with the matter. Besides, being the last to deal with the matter would make him look valuable as if he were the trump card of the Zhong family.

Zhong Tianli nervously stared at Zhong Tianyi. He knew that the moment Zhong Tianyi agreed to it, the biased Zhong Mingguo would leave the matter to his hand. That would signify the loss of his opportunity to rise in status within the family. However, Zhong Tianyi's response surprised Zhong Tianli.

“Grandpa, if he's sure he can do it, why don't we give him another chance? I have many things to attend to in the company recently, and I don't have the free time,” Zhong Tianyi replied.

Not only was Zhong Tianyi stupefied by his words, but the rest of the members were also shocked. Zhong Tianyi was not the kind of person who would give Zhong Tianli a chance.

Zhong Mingguo stiffened. *This is not the Zhong Tianyi I know. Does he no longer wish to show off his capabilities now that his company is doing well? If he's starting to be prideful for such minor results, I have to teach him the cruelty of life. He can't have this kind of attitude if he's going to be the next pillar of the family.*

However, since Zhong Tianyi had said his piece, Zhong Mingguo could only agree with it.

“Okay. Zhong Tianli, I’ll give you another chance. I hope you won’t let it slip again,” Zhong Ming announced.

Zhong Tianli had no intentions to ruminate on why Zhong Tianyi was giving him a chance. He was confident that as long as he prepared well, he would be able to turn the tides.

“Thank you, Grandpa.”

“Tianyi, come to my study room.” At that, Zhong Mingguo then headed toward the room.

Before he left, Zhong Tianyi said to Zhong Tianli, “This is your final chance. Don’t let it slip by you. Use every method you can think of. If you can’t come up with anything, I think you can start by targeting his wife and child. They’re definitely his weaknesses.”

Zhong Tianli knitted his brows at Zhong Tianyi’s seemingly kind advice. *Why is he coming up with plans for me all of a sudden?*

However, Zhong Tianyi's plan seemed good. If the safety of his wife and child was threatened, there was no way Han Jingru would dare to stay in Yan City.

“Zhong Tianyi, I know what to do. I don't need you to think of plans for me,” Zhong Tianyi voiced.

Zhong Tianyi gave him a faint smile. How could he possibly not come up with plans for Zhong Tianli? With the other man's intelligence, he would never think of anything like this. *If he did not infuriate Han Jingru, how would Han Jingru destroy him?*

Zhong Tianyi seemed nice, but he was hoping that Zhong Tianli would cross Han Jingru's limit and make the latter get rid of him. Of all the younger members of the Zhong family, only Zhong Tianli posed a problem to Zhong Tianyi. No one was threatening enough for Zhong Tianyi to waste his time on.

“Good luck,” Zhong Tianyi said with a smile before he headed toward his grandfather’s study room.

In the room, Zhong Mingguo was sitting solemnly in front of the desk. He had high hopes for Zhong Tianyi. If Zhong Tianyi had become prideful for the trivial results he now had, the elder man would be sorely disappointed. Hence, he had to remind his grandson not to have an inflated sense of self-importance for the results he now had. His pride would become the greatest obstacle in his way of becoming the heir of the family.

“Tianyi, while your company is indeed doing well now, you should realize that the results have barely reached my expectations. That’s why your pride right now is like a joke. Do you understand that?” Zhong Mingguo stated straightforwardly. He had to hit right in the middle of Zhong Tianyi’s ego so that the latter would realize his shortcomings.

“Grandpa, do you think that I’m not intervening in this matter because I’m too proud to do so?”

Zhong Tianyi muttered.

That was what Zhong Mingguo thought, but it seemed like he was wrong.

“What other plans do you have?” Zhong Mingguo queried, baffled.

“Grandpa, judging by Zhong Tianli’s personality, he’ll never admit defeat no matter how badly he fails with his entrepreneurship. If I were to become the head of the family in the future, we’ll end up having a civil war. If that happens, how will the Zhong family grow stronger? That’s why I need him to fully admit defeat to me. To do that, I’ll have to win him in his area of expertise,” Zhong Tianyi divulged.

“His area of expertise?” Zhong Mingguo briefly contemplated his words before realizing what Zhong Tianyi meant. He asked, “Do you mean you will intervene when he fails to resolve this issue? Is that how you’re planning to make it known to him the difference between you and him?”

“With how he is, things won’t be that simple. But since I want to become the head of the family, I’ll have to prioritize the family. I won’t allow any civil wars to occur in the family. I have to convince everyone that I’m worthy of being the head of the family. I’ll have to take one step at a time for what happens next,” Zhong Tianyi answered.

Zhong Mingguo was glad that Zhong Tianyi could have mature thoughts like these. However, there was a glaring flaw in his plan. *Why is Zhong Tianyi so sure that Zhong Tianli won’t be able to defeat Han Jingru?*

If Zhong Tianli succeeded in this, his pride would grow, and so will his urge to compete against Zhong Tianyi. If that happened, the conflict between them will only worsen.

“Have you thought of what would happen if Zhong Tianli succeeds in this?” Zhong Ming inquired.

“It’s impossible.” Zhong Tianyi laughed as he shook his head. Zhong Tianli’s plan would work

on anyone else, as it was true that he could fight, but he had no chance of winning against Han Jingru. Zhong Tianyi had previously found out that Han Jingru was much stronger than Zhong Tianli was.

“You look confident. It seems like you know Han Jingru better than I do,” Zhong Mingguo noted.

“Grandpa, he is indeed a capable man. Have you forgotten that he has someone by the name of Yan Qiong by his side?” Zhong Tianyi said.

Zhong Mingguo stiffened.

Yan Qiong!

That man used to be by Han Xiuzhi’s side, and he was the one who had created a city-wide bloodbath. That man had been in hiding for numerous years, and many have forgotten about him. But the mention of his name still instilled fear in people’s hearts, especially those around the same age as Zhong Mingguo. They remembered how terrifying Yan Qiong was back then.

Zhong Mingguo took in a deep breath. “But he hasn’t made a move for years. I recently mentioned him to a friend, and my friend told me that Yan Qiong was no longer of the same caliber as he once was.”

“Whether or not he has weakened since then is just a guess. No one has proof of it. Therefore, Yan Qiong is still someone we have to fear,” Zhong Tianyi asserted.

Zhong Mingguo had to agree with his words. No one should ever jump to conclusions without any proof. Otherwise, the consequences were unimaginable, and the ending would be one that was unpredictable.

“It looks like the Zhong family has to hold back a trick or two to deal with Yan Qiong,” Zhong Mingguo somberly uttered.

“Grandpa, I’ve thought about this long ago. That’s why an elite fighter will be joining the Zhong family soon. I spent a lot to hire him. With him around, we won’t need to worry even if Yan Qiong is our opponent,” Zhong Tianyi reassured.

Zhong Mingguo smiled. He nodded, feeling pleased. “Tianyi, you’re cautious. You have not disappointed me. I won’t need to worry when you become the next head of the family. You plan ahead, and I’m sure you’ll bring the Zhong family to greater heights.”

“Being cautious is the most important trait to have for someone who’s inheriting the family. I couldn’t possibly afford to be careless.” Zhong Tianyi smiled as well.

The brief conversation further strengthened Zhong Tianyi’s position in Zhong Mingguo’s heart. This was Zhong Tianyi’s ability, and none of his peers was better at it than him.

Moreover, Zhong Tianyi had also concealed his true aim in his words. He didn’t need to impress Zhong Tianli. The latter was a ticking bomb, and he would explode one day. Only by getting rid of him could Zhong Tianyi make sure Zhong Tianli would not explode.

After stepping out of the study room, Zhong Tianyi retreated to his own room. He

contemplated on when Zhong Tianli would finally send Han Jingru into a wrathful fit. He could not wait to hear news of Zhong Tianli's demise.

“I almost forgot something important! I have to pick someone up from the airport.” Having recalled something, Zhong Tianyi hurried out of the house.

The elite fighter that Zhong Tianyi had hired would land at Yan City at night. Zhong Tianyi dared not have a dismissive attitude when facing the person. He needed someone like that man, as Han Jingru had Yan Qiong by his side.

At Han Residence in the evening, Shi Yan had cooked a whole table worth of sumptuous dishes. She learned how to cook for the sake of cooking for Han Jingru, but back then, Han Jingru had returned to Yan City and did not eat at home.

“Mom, I didn’t think that you can cook this well,” Su Yimo exclaimed in envy and shock when she looked at the various dishes on the table.

As a daughter-in-law of the Han family, Shi Yan was a stereotypical rich wife. She never had the need to do any housework, so no one expected her to be able to cook. Su Yimo was dying from overwhelming jealousy. If she could cook like Shi Yan, she could then cook for Han Jingru.

Upon hearing her words, Shi Yan subconsciously peeked at Han Jingru. After all, she had learned cooking for him.

“If you’re interested to learn, I can teach you,” Shi Yan offered.

Su Yimo nodded vigorously. She would do her best to surpass the obstacles of cooking so that Han Jingru could enjoy delicious food. As long as she could learn the ways of cooking, it did not matter to her about its difficulties.

However, Han Jingru’s next words were like a

bucket of cold water splashing onto Su Yimo's fiery passion. He could never forget the scene where Su Yimo and Shen Zhuoman cooked at home back then. The entire house was foggy, as though they were on the battlefield. Although Su Yimo was not as disastrous as Shen Zhuoman, the two were pot and kettle.

“Mom, I'd suggest that you forget about it. Her entering the kitchen is the same as her entering a battlefield. I don't want to eat food from hell,” Han Jingru declared.

Displeased, Su Yimo glared at Han Jingru. “Is it really that bad?”

“It's not just bad. It's inedible,” Han Jingru ruthlessly replied.

Su Yimo reached out to Han Jingru's waist and threatened, “Is it that bad?”

Immediately, Han Jingru froze. He never felt a second of fear when he was fighting with Han Xiao, but Su Yimo's attack was something that made him shudder whenever he thought about it.

“I... Well... Actually, it tastes all right. If you learn how to cook from mom, I’m sure it’ll become better,” Han Jingru said.

Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong could not help but smile. Perhaps the only one who could dominate Han Jingru without him making a fuss was Su Yimo.

“Let’s eat first. Otherwise, the food will turn cold,” Shi Yan interrupted.

Su Yimo let go of Han Jingru, but the threatening glare did not dissipate. It made Han Jingru’s heart sank. *Looks like I’ll be having a tough night.*

While eating, Han Jingru thought of something, and he reminded the others, “If there isn’t anything you need to do recently, it’s best that you stay in, especially Yimo and Han Xiang. It’s best if you all stay at home. The people of the Zhong family might pull some dirty tricks. All of you have to be extra careful.”

Han Jingru had been set up a few times, and the members of the Zhong family often pulled

underhanded tricks. Hence, Han Jingru had to be prepared for the Zhong family trying to lay a finger on Su Yimo and Han Xiang.

This was her first time in Yan City, and Su Yimo wanted to take a look around the metropolitan area. However, the moment she heard Han Jingru's words, she immediately gave up on those thoughts. Su Yimo was now a mature woman. She would not risk Han Xiang for a moment of happiness.

“Jingru, don't worry. I'll keep an eye on them. I won't let them disappear from my line of sight,” Yan Qiong reassured Han Jingru.

“Grandpa Yan, once we leave the house, things will become unpredictable. I don't want Yimo and Han Xiang to be in any danger,” Han Jingru muttered.

Yan Qiong nodded in understanding. He knew Han Jingru was not worried about his capabilities, but that he was worried about the Zhong family's underhanded tricks. If anything happened, it would be difficult to salvage the

situation.

“All right, then. Let’s not go out of the house these few days,” Han Xiuzhi announced.

After dinner, Su Yimo helped Shi Yan cleaned up the table. Jiang Yingying, too, joined them. She was better with chores like these than them.

On the other hand, Han Jingru, Han Xiuzhi, and Yan Qiong went to the courtyard instead.

Bright stars were scattered across the night sky, and the moon, rarely seen even on good days, was hanging high in the sky.

Han Xiuzhi glanced at Han Jingru. His progress was unstoppable now, and Han Xiuzhi wanted to see how far he could go. It was a pity that he was now old, and he did not know whether he could live to witness the day.

“Jingru, what do you think about the Zhong family?” Han Xiuzhi asked.

“After going through so many things, I’ve

understood one thing. If I'm up against someone, I must make sure to finish them off. I can't let them have any chance to turn the tides. I have to make an example out of that person for the others to know the outcome of going against me," Han Jingru uttered.

Han Xiuzhi reminded, "If you destroy the entire Zhong family, their demise will have an enormous influence on the city. After all, the Zhong family has a high status in Yan City. We won't be able to easily conceal their destruction."

"Even the most powerful family has a foundation. Once the foundation collapses, so will the family. Zhong Mingguo is currently the pillar of the Zhong family. For the younger members, the most likely heir is Zhong Tianyi. As long as these two die, it'll be the end of the Zhong family," Han Jingru noted. He was not planning to destroy the entire Zhong family. He would not do something that would cause an effect as great as that. Hence, his aim was only Zhong Mingguo and Zhong Tianyi.

"These evil people won't target the Han family if

not for my absence and your father's death," Han Xiuzhi sighed.

"Actually, the most important reason is because of Han Yu. Everyone thinks that the Han family doesn't have an heir, and that's why they're targeting the family fearlessly. But they've forgotten that I'm still around," Han Jingru coldly voiced.

Han Yu was still in Qin City, and he was now a cripple. His existence was no threat to anyone, and that was why the others no longer feared the Han family.

"I'm glad that you can think like that," Han Xiuzhi commented. Han Xiuzhi had not imagined that to come from Han Jingru as the latter was mistreated by the family.

If this were in the past, Han Jingru would not have thought this way. Even if Nangong Shuxian died, he would not feel as though he belonged in the Han family. However, now that Han Xiuzhi was back, the Han family had a different meaning to it. As long as his grandfather was around, he

was part of the Han family.

“Grandpa, have you ever thought of letting Han Yu come out of jail?” Han Jingru queried.

Han Xiuzhi subconsciously glanced at Yan Qiong. At the same time, Yan Qiong had turned to look at Han Xiuzhi. They shared a look of bewilderment, as neither expected Han Jingru to mention it.

Back at Yun City, Shi Yan had suggested getting Han Yu out of jail so that he could at least enjoy New Year at home. However, Han Xiuzhi had ruthlessly rejected it. Han Xiuzhi felt that Han Yu should pay the price for his mistakes. Moreover, Han Yu had once used Han Jingru’s name and nearly caused a heinous mistake in Yun City. This was something Han Xiuzhi felt was unforgivable.

“No, going to jail is what he had brought upon himself. He’s not worthy of anyone saving him,” Han Xiuzhi stated.

“After dealing with the Zhong family, I’ll take a trip to Qin City,” Han Jingru said.

“What for?” Han Xiuzhi inquired.

Han Jingru shook his head. The answer he gave was one that baffled Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong. “I don’t know too.”

Han Xiuzhi sighed. If he had an answer like this, it meant that he was feeling conflicted about the things in his heart, and these were things that Han Xiuzhi could not intervene with. Hence, he fell silent. As long as it was something Han Jingru wanted to do, he would support him.

“It’s getting late. You should rest,” Yan Qiong said to Han Jingru.

The latter nodded before he headed to the backyard.

“What do you think about it?” Han Xiuzhi asked Yan Qiong after Han Jingru was gone.

“It looks like although Jingru won’t forgive Han Yu, he seems to want to save him. But I don’t know what’s his reason for doing that too,” Yan Qiong replied.

“Does he still think of Han Yu as his brother?”
Han Xiuzhi wondered.

Yan Qiong smiled bitterly. As his brother? Those words must sound hilarious to Han Jingru. After all, Han Yu had never seen Han Jingru as his brother. He only cursed and hit him. There was no sign of love at all. Moreover, with how Nangong Shuxian spoiled him, Han Yu treated Han Jingru like a servant. If Han Jingru didn't execute Han Yu's instructions well, he'd beat him up. Even if he did it well, Han Yu would think of ways to make things difficult for him.



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